

INTERNATIONAL SOFTBALL CONGRESS, INC.

BY-LAWS

- NAME -

The name of this organization shall be the International Softball Congress

- PURPOSE -

The purpose of the International Softball Congress shall be to create an interest in and promote men's and boys' fastpitch softball, to keep the game clean, and free from objectionable features, to make it a sport that will be attractive to lovers of all clean competitive sports, and to provide a series of games that lead up to ISC championships.

- RULES AND PROCEDURES -

ELIGIBILITY RULES

1. No team may qualify for or play in an ISC Championship Tournament with other than male players.
2. The ISC Executive Committee determines a given team's base of operations or home city.
3. Any player is eligible to participate in the program of the International Softball Congress provided he has not violated any of the rules pertaining to the eligibility of the individual.
4. No player shall be permitted to receive any award other than a trophy, charm or any other appropriate honor award in keeping with his achievement.
5. No player becoming ineligible in any region will be permitted to play with any other region holding membership in the International Softball Congress until he has been cleared by the Regional Vice President where the violation occurred.
6. No one shall be permitted to participate in the program of the ISC who has misused any funds, owes the ISC fees or has property in their possession belonging to the ISC or any of its team sponsors.
7. No player shall be eligible to participate in ISC sanctioned events if under suspension from any other national amateur softball association.
8. All leagues which are granted ISC Travel League status must extend the privilege of attendance, with voice, at all meetings of that organization to the ISC-appointed Regional Commissioner or Vice President.
9. Each ISC team is required to participate in invitational (or Qualifier) tournaments in both June and July.
10. All teams entering ISC qualifier or championship tournament play do so under the rules and jurisdiction of the ISC and acknowledge that the ISC has exclusive rights to promote and/or broadcast the games in any format. Also, the ISC may use team and/or player images or likenesses to promote the ISC.
11. Any rebroadcast, whole or in part, of any ISC World Tournament games without the express written consent of the International Softball Congress is strictly prohibited.

ISC COMPETITIONS

- DISCLAIMER -

The International Softball Congress will not assume responsibility for personal injury to personnel or any of its members, and will not be liable for property loss in connection with its program.

- HOW TO ENTER ISC COMPETITIONS -

Contact your Regional Commissioner or Regional Vice President. If more information is needed, contact any officer listed in the front of this book.

- TRAVEL LEAGUES -

All sanctioned travel leagues must play a minimum of three rounds and/or a minimum of 14 games per team per season to qualify. A one-year grace period will be granted to any region or travel league that falls below the minimum.

- QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS -

All qualifying tournaments shall be under the jurisdiction of the Regional Vice President or a Regional Commissioner and must be held within the geographical boundaries of the region. The Vice President or Regional Commissioner shall determine the site, dates, format, and entry fee. Umpires in qualifying tournaments are encouraged to wear official ISC umpire shirts and cap.

- OFFICIAL RULES -

All games played in the ISC shall be played according to the Official Softball Playing Rules published annually by the Amateur Softball Assn (ASA) **WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS.**

ASA rule books may be obtained from any ASA commissioner or from www.softball.org.

- PLAYING RULES -

1. All games shall start at rainout point in case of delay, regardless of time.
2. Tournament rosters shall not be changed for any reason after they have been turned in at a time to be designated by the official in charge.
3. Only starting players may re-enter a game.
4. Any forfeit games will be recorded with a 2-0 final score.
5. The ISC mercy rule is 7-run lead after 5 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings or 15 runs after 3 innings.
6. For all ISC Championship tournament games, teams are required to wear contrasting uniform tops/jerseys. The team placed on the top line for the game on the official bracket sheet shall wear light jerseys; the team placed on the bottom line for the game shall wear dark or contrasting jerseys. Any exception to this rule shall be cleared by the ISC Executive Director or a member of the ISC Executive Committee prior to game time.
7. The double bag (orange/white) will not be used at first base in ISC Championship play.
8. All players and coaches must be dressed in full playing uniform, including caps of like style and color, for all ISC tournament games and ISC World Tournament opening ceremonies.
9. The ISC uses the International Softball Federation (ISF) certified bat list. See the list at www.isfsoftball.org.
10. Courtesy runners are not allowed in ISC Championship play.
11. For all ISC World Tournament and affiliated tournament games, teams must start and finish with at least nine (9) players.

- ISC WORLD TOURNAMENT AND AFFILIATED TOURNAMENTS -

1. ISC World Tournament shall be under the jurisdiction of the Executive Committee of the ISC.
2. The entry fee for all teams shall be \$450(USD) for the ISC World Tournament and all affiliated tournaments. All entry fees are to be paid by July 1. Payment must be received by the deadline or a team may not be included in the schedule. Each qualifying team to the ISC World Tournament and all affiliated tournaments must meet its obligations to the ISC or entry may not be accepted. **NOTE: In the event a team does not meet its obligation, the total fee will be retained.**
3. Any team forfeiting an ISC World Tournament or affiliated tournament game may not be eligible to share in any tournament travel funds, and all players, coaches and managers may be suspended from ISC competition for one year.
4. Any team wanting to sell souvenir items at the World Tournament or affiliated tournaments must provide such items on consignment to the souvenir chairperson for approval. Items will be offered at prevailing prices, with unsold items to be returned to the team. The items to be sold and proceeds from these items will be negotiated with the World Tournament host and the team involved.
5. Games in ISC World Tournament and affiliated tournaments will not begin earlier than 15 minutes before scheduled game time. for the game.
6. All World Tournament teams must have a team picture taken by the official photographer prior to the start of their second World Tournament game.
7. The defending ISC World Champion team shall have the privilege of defending its World Title by invitation providing said team has nine players on its roster from the previous year. The roster with the nine players must be turned into the ISC Executive Director by May 15. The city in which the ISC World Tournament and affiliated tournaments takes place may be represented by up to two (2) Host City entries. The host team(s) may be chosen by invitation or other method with agreement of the ISC Executive Committee.
8. Team seeding for the World Tournament schedule will be based on the final team rankings provided by the ISC ranking committee. The top eight (8) ranked teams will receive byes, as will qualified or invited International teams to allow for travel.

- TEAM ROSTERS -

The official team roster shall be limited to 18 players. All Eligibility Rules must be followed.

Players participating in the Developmental Program are also eligible to play on a World Tournament team.

Team rosters are **due three times** per season and sent via e-mail attachment to the appropriate ISC Statisticians. **Due dates are May 15** (PRAWN declaration and preliminary season roster), **July 15** (deadline for rosters to appear in championship tournament programs) and the **Monday preceding the start of ISC World Tournament** (final and official championship roster).

- DEFINITIONS -

RESIDENCY TEAMS/PLAYERS

a) IN-REGION PLAYERS

All players must maintain primary residence and be available for legal employment, as of May 1, in the region governing the team with which a player competes. A temporary residence does not qualify as a primary residence. Transfer of employment to another region is acceptable until June 15 of the current season.

Any player moving to another region or travel league after May 1 of the current year and wishing to play in an ISC tournament or travel league shall make it known and be approved by the ISC Executive Director no later than June 15. This rule shall also apply to player changes for the host team and the defending champions. It shall be the responsibility of both the commissioner and the player to get a clearance before playing with another team after moving to another region or travel league. All commissioners shall receive a list of players who have been approved to play for another team after having moved to another region or travel league. The Executive Committee shall make the decision, and in no case shall anyone play if not approved by June 15.

b) OUT-OF-REGION PLAYER

If a player wishes to play in an ISC region and/or travel league outside of his geographic region of residence whether that region be under ISC jurisdiction or not, he must e-mail his intention with ISC headquarters by May 1 annually. A check, money order or credit card information as specified by the ISC Out-of-Region Fee Schedule, must be submitted with the Team Out of Region Recap Form by the team. Upon approval of the Out of Region request by the ISC Executive Director, the out-of-region player will be bound to that team for the entire season and cannot play in ISC programs in his or any other region or travel league until the following season.

WITH THE FOLLOWING Exceptions:

- 1) Approved out-of-region players are eligible to be picked up by another team entered in the World Tournament, if a player is within an ISC Region which does not send a team to the ISC World or ISC II Championships, the player may be picked up to play by another team outside that player's designated region. This is subject to PRAWN rules and Out-of-Region form and fees.
- 2) After the May 1 Out-of-Region deadline, a team may apply to the appropriate Regional Commissioner or Vice President for a player replacement due to a hardship case. If hardship is approved, the replaced player will be ineligible for ISC competition for the current year. This is subject to PRAWN rules and Out-of-Region form and fees.

Approved out-of-region players on all ISC teams must play in at least one approved ISC Qualifying event or in invitational tournaments in both June and July, with their current year's team, to be eligible for World Tournament play.

In the case of travel league teams, approved out-of-region players must play in at least six games (exceptions must be approved by the ISC Executive Director) to be eligible for World Tournament play. Teams with predetermined berths to the ISC World Tournament (defending champions, host team and invited team) are exempt from the six-game travel league rule.

Each team will be allowed one exception to the requirement that out of region players must play in either an approved ISC qualifying event or an invitational in both June and July.

If a player signs a letter of intent and does not play in an official ISC Qualifying event by June 1, he can notify the ISC Executive Director for a withdrawal of his letter of intent.

Notification of approved out-of region players will be made to ISC commissioners by the Executive Director.

c) OUT-OF-REGION PLAYERS FEES

The first three Out-of-Region players per team will be assessed \$100 (USD) each. Additional Out-of-Region players on each team, beyond three, will be assessed \$300 (USD) each. All Out- of-Region fees, with the properly completed Letter of Intent form (or e-mailed commitment), must be postmarked no later than May 1 to the ISC Executive Director.

Out-of-region players may be added to a team's roster between May 2 and June 15, with the properly e-mailed commitment and will be assessed a fee of \$500 (USD) each.

d) OUT-OF-REGION PITCHERS

Team rosters for ISC Championship play will be restricted to three pitcher. Pitcher us defined as any player on an 18-man roster who pitches in ISC Championship competition. These three will be the first three that pitch in the ISC World Tournament. Of these three pitchers, the limit is two OOR and one PRAWN.

PRAWN RESTRICTIONS

- 1) A PRAWN (Player Rep All World Name) list will be maintained by the ISC containing each name of the two all-world teams for the most recent five years, including MV Player and Outstanding Pitcher. The PRAWN list will be released on AI's list by August 30 each year and posted on the ISC Web site as soon as possible.
- 2) For 2011 and beyond, teams will be limited to 5-PRAWN players (combination of one pitcher and position players), plus age related exceptions that may have been named all-World in the last three years – only one of which may be a pitcher. Teams are still limited to two OOR pitchers for the season. All teams must name their PRAWNs to the Executive Director by May 1 each year.
- 3) Current hardship rule will be allowed given the following: the team replacing the player is still required to abide by the PRAWN limits for both players and pitchers. E.g. if the player being replaced is a pitcher with PRAWN status then that team may replace that pitcher with another PRAWN pitcher.

No team may add a PRAWN to their roster until their total PRAWN count falls below five (5).

AGE EXCEPTION FOR PRAWNs

If a non-PRAWN player makes an All-World team in the calendar year of or after their 45th birthday, that player will only be considered a PRAWN player for one year. PRAWN players who have made or make an All-World team in the calendar year of their 43rd or 44th birthday can request to be excluded from the PRAWN list in the calendar year of their 45th birthday or after one season on the PRAWN list by providing proof of age to the Executive Director by May 15 of each year.

PRAWN Extension

A PRAWN that plays in more than one tournament for a team prior to the World Tournament, but is not included on that team's roster for the ISC World Tournament, and does not participate for any other team in the World Tournament, will have his PRAWN status extended for one additional year.

ISC REGION DEFINITIONS

Revised August 2014

Western US Region – Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico. Also includes the western portion of Mexico east to a straight line from Presidio, TX to Vera Cruz and the western portion of Texas including El Paso, Hudspeth, Culbertson, Jeff Davis and Presidio counties.

Central US Region – North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Wisconsin, Illinois and all of Texas except El Paso, Hudspeth, Culbertson, Jeff Davis and Presidio counties. Also includes the portion of Mexico east of a straight line from Presidio, TX to Vera Cruz.

Eastern US Region – Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey and Washington, DC.

Canada West Region – Metro Thunder Bay, ON and points west, Alaska, British Columbia, Yukon Territory, Alberta, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Exception: Residents of Metro Thunder Bay may play in either Canada West or Canada East and be considered in region.

Canada East Region – Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec & Nunavut. Exception: Residents of Metro Thunder Bay may play in either Canada West or Canada East and be considered in region.

Atlantic Canada: New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland & Labrador.